

Docket No. 2001-020-TAP

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus,
2 comprising:
3 at least one fixed layer; and
4 at least one free layer, wherein the flux carrying
5 capacity of the spin valve sensor is increased above
6 standard spin valve sensors, to reduce the sensitivity of
7 the spin valve sensor.

1 2. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 1, wherein the flux carrying capacity of the
3 spin valve sensor is increased by increasing a thickness
4 of the at least one free layer above 60 angstroms.

1 3. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 2, wherein the thickness of the at least one
3 free layer is between 90 and 120 angstroms, inclusively.

1 4. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 1, wherein the flux carrying capacity of the
3 spin valve sensor is increased above standard spin valve
4 sensors such that an amount by which a free layer moment
5 rotates for a given flux input is decreased.

1 5. A reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus,
2 comprising:
3 at least one fixed layer; and
4 at least two free layers.

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1 6. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 5, further comprising at least one non-magnetic
3 spacer positioned between the at least one fixed layer
4 and one of the at least two free layers.

1 7. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 5, wherein the at least one fixed layer includes
3 at least two fixed layers having a magnetic orientation
4 approximately 90 degrees from a magnetic orientation of
5 the at least two free layers.

1 8. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 5, wherein the at least one fixed layer includes
3 at least two fixed layers, and wherein the at least two
4 free layers are positioned between the at least two fixed
5 layers.

1 9. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 8, wherein the at least two fixed layers and the
3 at least two free layers are spaced from one another by
4 three non-magnetic spacers.

1 10. The reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor apparatus
2 of claim 5, wherein a magnetic flux is distributed across
3 the two free layers to thereby reduce a magnetic flux fed
4 to each free layer.

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1 11. A method of making a reduced sensitivity spin valve
2 sensor apparatus, comprising:
3 providing at least one fixed layer; and
4 providing at least one free layer, wherein the flux
5 carrying capacity of the spin valve sensor is increased
6 above standard spin valve sensors, to reduce the
7 sensitivity of the spin valve sensor.

1 12. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 1, wherein the flux
3 carrying capacity of the spin valve sensor is increased
4 by increasing a thickness of the at least one free layer
5 above 60 angstroms.

1 13. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 12, wherein the thickness
3 of the at least one free layer is between 90 and 120
4 angstroms, inclusively.

1 14. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 11, wherein the flux
3 carrying capacity of the spin valve sensor is increased
4 above standard spin valve sensors such that an amount by
5 which a free layer moment rotates for a given flux input
6 is decreased.

1 15. A method of making a reduced sensitivity spin valve
2 sensor apparatus, comprising:
3 providing at least one fixed layer; and
4 providing at least two free layers.

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1 16. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 15, further comprising
3 providing at least one non-magnetic spacer positioned
4 between the at least one fixed layer and one of the at
5 least two free layers.

1 17. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 15, wherein providing the
3 at least one fixed layer includes providing at least two
4 fixed layers having a magnetic orientation approximately
5 90 degrees from a magnetic orientation of the at least
6 two free layers.

1 18. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 15, wherein providing the
3 at least one fixed layer includes providing at least two
4 fixed layers, and wherein providing the at least two free
5 layers includes positioning the at least two free layers
6 between the at least two fixed layers.

1 19. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 18, wherein providing the
3 at least two fixed layers and providing the at least two
4 free layers includes spacing the at least two fixed
5 layers and at least two free layers from one another by
6 three non-magnetic spacers.

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- 1 20. The method of making a reduced sensitivity spin
- 2 valve sensor apparatus of claim 15, wherein a magnetic
- 3 flux is distributed across the two free layers to thereby
- 4 reduce a magnetic flux fed to each free layer.

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